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## Charitable Games

# Newsletter

*from the Missouri Gaming Commission*

## What's This!?!

The Charitable Games staff at the Gaming Commission wants to improve communication with you! We will continue to send out Bingo Bulletins to inform you about important changes as they happen, and we want to encourage you to call, fax, e-mail, or write us with any questions or concerns you might have – **at any time**. For the past several years, the Commission has conducted seminars around the state. While we appreciate the participation of those who chose to attend, we noted that **we were missing the majority** of charitable games operators at those seminars.

This year, we are doing something different to try to get **two-way** communication with **all** charitable game operators. This newsletter summarizes several topics we felt were important to you. It also has a short survey that we hope you will complete and return to us. The survey will let us know **what you think**, and will help us do our jobs better and work with you in areas of mutual interest. Please complete and return the survey by itself **OR** with your Quarterly Report in July.

## Role of the Gaming Commission

The primary purpose of the Gaming Commission is **to ensure the integrity of licensed gaming activities**. We do this through licensing, background checks, regulations, enforcement, inspections, audits, and through open communication. Integrity in gaming means fairness, accountability, and honesty in all areas related to charitable gaming. Equally important to each organization and the Gaming Commission is the public perception of charitable gaming. It is vital that the public has confidence in us – and in you. You and the other charitable games operators serve many noble causes. While bingo licensees are also concerned about profitability, the Gaming Commission must stay focused on integrity and compliance.

***But we all have a stake in how the public views charitable gaming.***

## Random-Select Pull-Tabs

Over the past several years, the Gaming Commission received a number of requests from bingo licensees to authorize the sale of pull-tabs that were packaged with winning tickets in random-select order, similar to the packaging of tickets by the Missouri Lottery. Our reluctance to approve random-select pull-tabs was based on concerns of potential abuses and increased complaints by patrons that random-select pull-tab winners may be more easily identified or manipulated. On April 4, 2002, the Gaming Commission authorized random-select packaging on a **temporary** basis through May 31, 2003. During this trial period, we will closely monitor illegal activities and complaints associated with the random-select pull-tab packaging. Your organization should also watch for any improprieties and ensure all pull-tab sales are handled properly.

## Illegal Gambling Devices

The Administrative Hearing Commission (AHC) recently heard two appeals by bingo licensees involving illegal gambling devices on their premises and the AHC ruled in favor of the Gaming Commission to assess discipline against the organizations. Upon obtaining information that a licensee has these machines on their premises, we now send our enforcement officers to conduct an inspection of the premises to determine if the complaint is true or not. These inspections may be done **at any time**, not just during a regularly scheduled bingo session. The good news is that the number of organizations having these machines appears to be decreasing. Certainly, the vast majority of licensees does not condone or engage in this or other illegal activities.

# Keno from the Missouri Lottery

Several organizations have called to ask if they can offer the new Missouri Lottery keno game. Any game offered by the Missouri Lottery would be legal; therefore, **may be offered** by a bingo licensee.



## Gaming Commission Internet Website

Be sure and visit our new web site at [www.mgc.state.mo.us](http://www.mgc.state.mo.us). Topics of interest on the web site include laws and regulations governing bingo, contact information, bingo gaming forms, such as licensing applications, quarterly reports, etc., frequently asked questions regarding bingo, along with other information which we hope will be beneficial to you.

We welcome any suggestions you may have about any items you would like to see made available on our web site.



# New Rules

As of May 30, 2002, game operators who conduct morning games will be allowed to begin selling bingo paper prior to 10:00 a.m., however, no pull-tab sales may start before 10:00 a.m. In addition, **11 CSR 45-30.190, Rules of Play**, still requires that **no paper or pull-tabs** be sold more than two hours prior to the start of your bingo game.

**11 CSR 45-30.355, Sale of Pull-Tab Cards by Bingo Licensees**, is being amended to be consistent with both Chapter 313.040 (14), RSMo., and 11 CSR 45-30.190. The Gaming Commission approved the Final Order of Rulemaking in April. The rule has been sent to the Secretary of State to be published in the Code of State Regulations and to determine an effective date. It has not yet gone into effect.

Two other rules became effective on **May 30, 2002**. **11 CSR 45-30.395, Manufacturer Record Keeping Requirements**, was revised to include shipping destination on manufacturer invoices and to require that shipping information be maintained with the invoice. **11 CSR 45-30.525, Supplier Record Keeping Requirements**, was revised to allow the sale of bingo paper to entities not licensed by the Commission if certain guidelines are followed.

## Bingo Promotions!!! Bingo Promotions!!!

After many months of review and with the help of comments from several persons from bingo organizations, we have proposed a rule that sets general guidelines for promotions that both adheres to the statutory requirements and allows bingo operators some alternatives. **11 CSR 45-30.025, Bingo Promotions**, allows bingo operators to conduct bingo promotions funded by nonbingo funds or donations. These promotions must be conducted without any charge whatsoever, including admission fees, and with no solicitation for donations to participate. Despite earlier versions of the proposed rule, free pull-tabs, free bingo paper, and birthday packs will still be allowed. The Gaming Commission approved of the Final Order of Rulemaking on this proposal in May. The rule has been sent to the Secretary of State's Office for inclusion in the Code of State Regulations and to set an effective date. This rule is not yet in effect.



### *Questions About Promotions?*

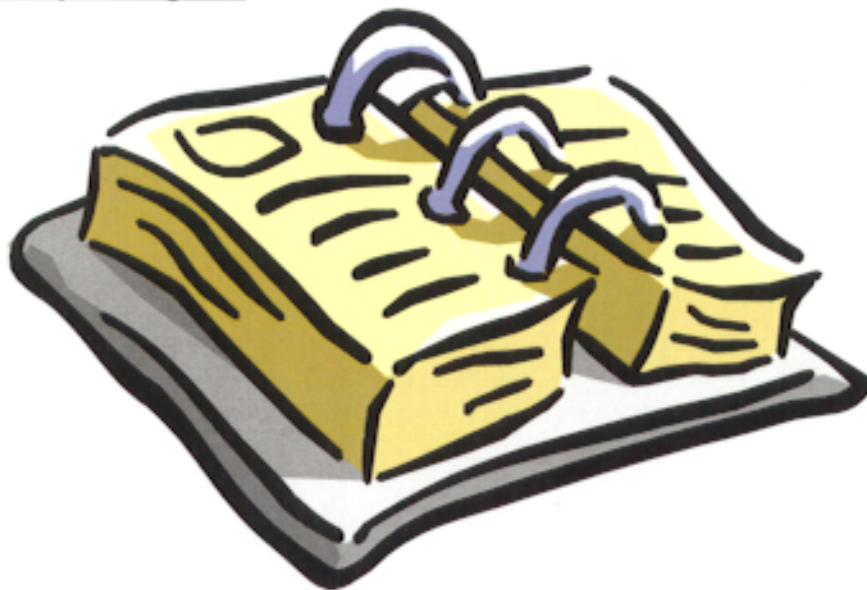
If you have an idea for a promotion you would like to conduct, but are not sure if it is legal, you should submit your idea in writing to the Commission. We will review your idea and answer your questions.

### Revisions To Your Blue Bingo Rulebook

The Bingo Division intends to send the updates for your blue Bingo Rulebook after the changes to 11 CSR 45-30.355, Sale of Pull-Tab Cards by Bingo Licensees, and 11 CSR 45-30.025, Bingo Promotions, go into effect.

# DO YOU WANT HELP WITH YOUR RECORDS?

The Missouri Gaming Commission bingo audit staff is available for assistance with your records. We have helped several bingo operators with one-on-one instruction based on the way their game is conducted.



If you would like to receive some guidance or suggestions, contact us to set up a time to review your records and bingo operation. We will be glad to help you!!

Please respond on the attached survey or just let us know what help you need.

## **Irregularities and Suspicious Activities**

Please notify the Enforcement Section of the Bingo Division about any irregularities or suspicious activities. Close attention to detail should be made of suspicious individuals and their involvement in any questionable activity. An attempt to pass a bogus pull-tab or the use of bingo paper that has been brought in from outside the bingo hall are examples of situations that should be reported to us. It would be very helpful if you made notes of as much information as possible for use by commission agents during their investigation.

*If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call 1-888-BETS-OFF*